

Solemnity of Christ the King B.18: Dan 7:13-14; Rev 1:5-8; John 18:33b-37; *Power in Love*

Today in a “trial scene” Pilate asks a question for ... *you and me*,

‘Pilate said to Jesus, “Are you the King of the Jews?”’

The kingdom of earth and *the Kingdom of God* have engaged in a struggle for *the future of the world*. At this time, **Pilate** represents the most powerful ruler on earth, *Caesar of Rome*. This day the “king of the earth” meets

... the faithful witness, the first born of the dead,

and ruler of the kings of the earth, Jesus of Nazareth.

Funny thing, Pilate thinks he is interrogating Jesus, but Jesus places Pilate on trial about the meaning of life. When questioned, Jesus did not claim the title of king, and then to Pilate’s confusion admitted to being a king but not in his world, **“My kingdom does not belong to this world.”**

What is happening here?

Pilate lived in a world of competition, fear and force. He feared a ruler who could overthrow him. Pilate understood a world where people must make their importance known & felt, no matter the emptiness of their claims to greatness. Pilate’s world governed by heredity, clothing, titles, and the power to manipulate defined a person’s worth and status.

Jesus lived in a world where he claimed no status, **“For this I was born**

... and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.”

Jesus claims only to testify to reality.

This is the most powerful person alive. Jesus is, *King of Kings*, because his only purpose is to reveal *the Eternal Truth of Divine Love*. No one can take that away. *Pilate knew that* no bribe, no reward, no punishment could sway Jesus from his mission. Worse still, Jesus could influence and gather others to think these dangerous thoughts, to accept this *Reality* that changes values.

To which king will we give our allegiance?

What does your life mean?

Choose the Christ and, like Jesus, your primary identity will come from a God who loves all people and Creation. The fantasies of superiority fall before a **shepherd king**, who washed his disciples' feet. His humility threw in high relief the real source of his power – *the ability to speak true words that required no enforcement to have effect*. People followed Jesus not out of FEAR, but because he spoke and acted on the TRUTH.

What Jesus said **about** the Father and Human Life,

about generosity and forgiveness, **about** love and sacrifice – this TRUTH, **enlightened, engaged, and empowered** the hearts of his followers.

This deepest Truth is that we must love one another as God first loved us.

Here is the POWER to transform lives, to transform worlds.

Perhaps you saw the recent wedding of Prince Harry & Meagan Markle.

Part of Bishop Curry's homily can give us insight into *the Power of*

2 Love. He began with, "The late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said:

"We must discover the power of love, the redemptive power of love. And when we do that, we will make of this old world a new world, for love is the only way." *There's power in love. Don't underestimate it.*

Don't even over-sentimentalize it. There's power in love.

Someone once said that Jesus began the most revolutionary movement in human history. A movement grounded in the unconditional love of God for the world - and a movement mandating people to live that love, and in so doing to change not only their lives but the very life of the world itself.

I'm talking about power. Real power. Power to change the world. That's what love is. *Love is not selfish and self-centered. Love can be sacrificial, and in so doing, becomes redemptive. And that way of unselfish, sacrificial, redemptive love changes lives, and it can change this world.*

"If you don't believe me, just stop and imagine.

Think and imagine a world where love is the way."

When love is the way, then no child will go to bed hungry in this world ever again.

When love is the way, we will let justice roll down like a mighty stream and righteousness like an ever-flowing brook.

When love is the way, poverty will become history.

When love is the way, the earth will be a sanctuary.

*When love is the way, we will lay down our swords and shields,
... down by the riverside, to study war no more.*

When love is the way, there's plenty good room - for all of God's children. *Because when love is the way, we actually treat each other, like we are actually family. When love is the way, we know that God is the source of us all, and that we are brothers and sisters, children of God. **My brothers and sisters, that's a new heaven, a new earth, a new world, a new human family.***” (Wedding Homily, Bishop Michael Curry, 19 May 2018, UK)

Sounds like the *Kingdom of God* on this Earth to me!

At this Liturgy of the Divine Truth, let us choose Jesus as *Lord of the Universe and Lord of our Lives*. My friends, the Future is waiting for us.

As the old Quaker hymn reminds us: **“When Love is Lord of heaven
and earth, how can I keep from singing?” !!!**